

What is Claimed is:

5 1. A computer-implemented method for the intermediation of real time meetings,  
comprising:

receiving an indication by a requester system that a requester wants to request a  
realtime meeting with a target;  
sending to the target a request to conduct a real time meeting;  
queuing the request by the requester system; and  
connecting the requester and the target when the requester and the target are  
mutually available.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising dequeuing the request when the realtime  
meeting successfully completes.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein a system of the target is polled to determine the  
target's availability.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the system of the target sends the target's availability  
status to the requester.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein a system of the requester is polled to determine the  
requester's availability.

25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the system of the requester sends the requester's  
availability status to the target.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein mutual availability is determined by checking the  
availability of the requester and the target.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein a request is sent to a plurality of targets and mutual availability is determined when the requester and a quorum of the targets are available.

5 9. A computer-implemented method for the intermediation of realtime meetings, comprising:

receiving, by a target system from a requester system, an indication that a requester wants to request a realtime meeting with a target;  
queuing the request by the target system; and  
10 connecting the requester and the target when the requester and the target are mutually available.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising dequeuing the request when the realtime meeting successfully completes.

15 11. The method of claim 9, wherein a system of the target is polled to determine the target's availability.

20 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the system of the target sends the target's availability status to the requester.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein a system of the requester is polled to determine the requester's availability.

25 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the system of the requester sends the requester's availability status to the target.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein mutual availability is determined by checking the availability of the requester and the target.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein a request is sent to a plurality of targets and mutual availability is determined when the requester and a quorum of the targets are available.

17. A computer-implemented method for the intermediation of realtime meetings,  
5 comprising:  
providing a data structure to hold requests for realtime meetings sent from a requester to a target;  
reviewing the held requests to determine whether the requester and the target are mutually available; and  
10 taking steps to cause the realtime meeting to occur, when the requester and the target are mutually available.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the realtime meeting has a highest priority of the requested realtime meetings.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein a highest priority request is determined by sorting on one or more of the following: who desired the call; relationship with the user; user-specified priority factors; elapsed time since the RTM was requested; expiration time on RTM request; expected remaining time of availability; anticipated call duration; past history; difficulty of  
20 reaching requester.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein availability of a user is determined by monitoring the activity of a user to determine whether the user is physically present; and  
if the user is physically present, displaying at least one request identifying a requester  
25 that had previously requested a realtime meeting with the user.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the realtime meeting is conducted using a telephone.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein the realtime meeting is conducted using Internet

telephony.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein the realtime meeting is specified as being a face to face meeting.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein a determination of whether the user is physically present is made by checking one or more of: start or end of a call; other use of phone; recent activity at computer input devices; conversation near microphone; lights turned on/off; weight in chair or on floor; a motion sensor; opening/closing of door; spoken commands; computer keyboard/mouse based commands; touchtone commands; and scheduled periods of availability.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein a determination of availability is made by monitoring the activity of the user.

26. The method of claim 17, wherein a determination of availability is made by monitoring the activity of the user's environment.

27. The method of claim 17, further comprising:  
allowing the target to rate callers and to filter callers based on his own previously assigned ratings.

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